



## **NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request**

**AGENCY:** National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, National Science Foundation.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request renewal of the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR), [OMB Control Number 3145–0020]. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, NCSES is providing opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NCSES will prepare the submission requesting that OMB approve clearance of this collection for three years.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to the address below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite E7465, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292–7556; or send email to [splimpto@nsf.gov](mailto:splimpto@nsf.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Title of Collection:* 2023 Survey of Doctorate Recipients

*OMB Control Number:* 3145-0020.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* July 31, 2024.

*Type of Request:* Intent to seek approval to extend an information collection for three years.

*Abstract:* Established within the NSF by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 § 505, codified in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) serves as a central Federal clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, analysis, and dissemination of objective data on science, engineering, technology, and research and development for use by practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public.

NCSES is the primary sponsor of the Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR); the National Institutes of Health (NIH) serves as a co-sponsor. The SDR has been conducted biennially since 1973 and is a longitudinal survey. The 2023 SDR will consist of a sample of individuals under 76 years of age who have earned a research doctoral degree in a science, engineering, or health (SEH) field from a U.S. academic institution. The purpose of this panel survey is to collect data to provide national estimates on the doctoral science and engineering workforce and changes in their employment, education, and demographic characteristics. NCSES uses these data to prepare essential congressionally mandated reports (explained below). Government agencies and academic researchers use SDR data and publications to make planning decisions regarding science and engineering research, training, and employment opportunities. Employers also use the SDR to understand trends in employment

sectors, industry types, and salary. Students who want to learn about the relationship between graduate education and careers often obtain valuable information from the SDR. Data and publications from the SDR are available to the public on the NCSES website:

<https://www.nsf.gov/statistics/srvydoctoratework/>. The first SDR longitudinal data products were released in 2022.

The SDR will collect data by web survey, mail questionnaire, and computer-assisted telephone interviews beginning in June 2023. The survey will be collected in conformance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) of 2018 and the individual's response to the survey is voluntary. NCSES will ensure that all information collected will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for statistical purposes.

*Use of the Information:* NCSES uses the information from the SDR to prepare two congressionally mandated reports: *Diversity and STEM: Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities* and *Science and Engineering Indicators*. NCSES publishes statistics from the SDR in many reports, primarily in the biennial series, *Characteristics of Scientists and Engineers with U.S. Doctorates*. As with prior SDR data collections, a cross-sectional public release file of collected data designed to protect respondent confidentiality will be made available to researchers on the NCSES website: <https://ncesdata.nsf.gov/datadownload/>.

*Expected Respondents:* The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) previously directed that NCSES enhance and expand the sample to measure employment outcomes by the fine field of degree taxonomy used in the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). NCSES initiated this change in the 2015 cycle and has since maintained it by developing a detailed field of degree taxonomy based on the SED fine fields that is aggregated to a level that is reportable and

sustainable. (For information defining these fields, see the survey technical notes.) The SDR sample is drawn using the SED as a frame. The SDR uses a fixed panel design with a sample of new doctoral graduates added to the panel in each biennial survey cycle. The sample stratification, allocation, and estimation precision targets are described in the survey description.

For the 2023 SDR, a statistical sample of approximately 130,000 individuals with U.S. earned doctorates in science, engineering, or health will be contacted. The sample consists of all eligible cases from the previous cycle (115,000) after removing cases that have never responded (6,700), including those from the 2017 SDR new sample and the 2019 SDR supplemental sample, as well as a sample of 10,000 new doctoral graduates. In addition, the sample includes 5,000 cases that will be part of a non-production bridge panel designed to quantify the potential impact of question wording modifications on key survey estimates. For 2023, the new graduate sample received their U.S. doctorate between July 2019 and June 2021. Across the full sample, NCSES estimates approximately 88% of individuals will reside in the U.S. and the remaining 12% will reside abroad.

*Estimate of Burden:* NCSES expects the overall 2023 SDR response rate to be approximately 70 percent. The amount of time to complete the questionnaire may vary depending on an individual's circumstances; however, based on 2021 SDR completion times and the potential addition of new retirement-related items for a subsample of respondents, NCSES estimates an average completion time of approximately 25 minutes. NCSES estimates that the average annual burden for the 2023 survey cycle over the course of the three-year OMB clearance period will be no more than 12,639 hours  $[(130,000 \text{ individuals} \times 70\% \text{ response} \times 25 \text{ minutes}) / 60 \text{ minutes} / 3 \text{ years}]$ .

*Comments:* Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of NCSES, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of NCSES's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: November 30, 2022.

**Suzanne H. Plimpton,**  
*Reports Clearance Officer,*  
*National Science Foundation.*

[FR Doc. 2022-26422 Filed: 12/5/2022 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/6/2022]